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Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Comprehensive implementation of the outcome of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.84/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

Summary

At its 61st meeting, on 26 February 2002, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.84/Rev.1, as orally revised. The programme budget implications of that draft resolution amounting to a requirement for additional appropriations of $1,178,700 for the biennium 2002-2003 were before the Committee in document A/C.3/56/L.87, and are reproduced below for consideration by the Fifth Committee.

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I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Operative paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.84/Rev.1, as orally revised, entitled "Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia .nd Related Intolerance", read as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "...
>
> "12. *Supports* the decision by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish an anti-discrimination unit to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to promote equality and non-discrimination;
>
> "13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, to appoint five independent eminent experts, one from each region, from among candidates proposed by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, after consultation with the regional groups, to follow the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration and Programme of Action;
>
> "14. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in follow-up to the Conference, to cooperate with these five independent eminent experts, and to report annually to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, taking into account information and views provided by States, relevant human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other mechanisms of the Commission, international, regional and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions;".

II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and to the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003

2. The requests contained in operative paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of the draft resolution are associated with programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and to section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. Should the draft resolution be adopted, the following activities would be carried out during the biennium 2002-2003:

(a) Establishment of the Anti-Discrimination Unit, within the Activities and Programmes Branch, to ensure, initiate, mainstream and monitor implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action:

(i) The responsibilities of the Unit would include the following:

- To compile and prepare an annual progress report on the implementation of the outcome of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. The report would be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

- To produce briefing notes, speeches, progress reports, documents related to coordination and administrative aspects, fund-raising documents for donor organizations and project documents for the Office, as and when needed;

- Maintain and strengthen links that were developed around the world during 2000 and 2001 in preparation for the Conference. Hundreds of NGOs attended the Conference; they, especially the newly emerging groups among them, should be encouraged to become involved in the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action;

- Continue and strengthen regular liaison with parliamentarians, religious leaders, business and trade unions, and promote their involvement in follow-up activities;

- Continue and strengthen active liaison with United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental bodies on follow-up to the Conference, organize regular consultations with those bodies, and develop and implement joint activities with them;

- The organization of five regional meetings to discuss the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as the organization of two expert seminars under the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

- To provide support to the group of five independent eminent persons;

- Administration of the proposed small grants scheme for selected follow-up activities to be undertaken by national institutions and other national bodies;

(ii) The Unit would include three Professional posts (one P-5, and two P-3) and one General Service post. The main functions of each post would be as follows:

- **Coordinator (P-5)**:

– Manage and coordinate the implementation of the substantive and organizational tasks assigned to the Anti-Discrimination Unit;

– Develop and coordinate specific strategies, including at the regional level that seek to implement the framework of various activities and programmes assigned to the Unit;

– Undertake high-level representation at related meetings and conferences, and identify, where necessary, potential themes and issues requiring consideration and action by the Secretariat;

– Participate in the planning and organization of specific meetings and seminars;

– Work in close collaboration with other members of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights staff, field representatives and United Nations country teams in developing worldwide awareness, knowledge and understanding of the follow-up process;

• **Research Officers (two P-3)**:

– Prepare reports and documents on subjects relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

– Undertake substantive research in connection with follow-up programmes;

– Determine sources that are likely to contain relevant information on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and develop contacts with those sources to obtain new and additional information;

– Participate in the organizational and substantive aspects of meetings, seminars and symposia planned or supported by the Office of the High Commissioner;

– Assist in drafting reports, servicing meetings, and seminars;

– Assist in coordinating fund-raising campaigns, as appropriate;

– Respond to requests for information relating to the follow-up process;

– Undertake and coordinate public information and awareness-creation activities;

– Ensure the integration of data relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action in the human rights database.

• **Programme Assistant (one General Service)**: to provide administrative support to the work of the Anti-Discrimination Unit;

(b) Convening of three meetings of five independent eminent experts. In paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly requests the High Commissioner to cooperate with five independent eminent experts, one from each region, to follow the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration and Programme of Action. As requested in paragraph 13 of the draft resolution, these eminent persons would be appointed by the Secretary-General from among candidates proposed by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, after consultation with the regional groups. The five eminent persons will meet twice in Geneva in 2002 and once in 2003.

(c) Convening of five regional expert meetings to discuss the implementation of the outcome of and follow-up to the World Conference:

(i) Two expert meetings would be convened during 2002, in Latin America and Africa, and three during 2003 — for Asia, Eastern Europe and States that are members of the Western Group. Aspects to be discussed at those meetings would include: (1) an analysis of provisions of the Durban documents, including those that are particularly meaningful in the region; (2) national action plans; (3) technical cooperation to combat racism in the region; (4) implementation by States, United Nations agencies, national institutions, NGOs, youth groups; and (5) best practices;

(ii) Ten renowned experts (experts from United Nations mechanisms and treaty bodies, academics and representatives of NGOS, youth and civil society) from each region would be invited to each regional meeting in order to present background papers and discuss their findings among themselves. The audience would also include representatives of Governments, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies;

The outcome of the expert seminars would be presented to the Commission on Human Rights in 2003 and 2004 during its debate under the agenda item "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination".

(d) Support would be provided for some 10 awareness-raising projects with national institutions and NGOs. In order to reach victims on the ground, activities at the national level should also be supported. The Programme of Action specifically mandates, among others, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and youth groups to be involved in the follow-up to the Conference. A small grants scheme funded through extrabudgetary resources would be established for selected follow-up activities to be undertaken by national institutions and other national bodies. It would support some 10 selected awareness-building projects in the five regions on specific themes and topics related to the Programme of Action to raise awareness and provide for concrete initiatives at the national level regarding the outcome of the Conference;

(e) A database would be established and its accessibility maintained as much as possible for the benefit of those in authority and the public at large, through its web site and by other appropriate means. The database would contain information on:

(i) Practical means to address racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, particularly international and regional instruments and national legislation, including anti-discrimination legislation, as well as legal means to combat racial discrimination;

(ii) Remedies available through international mechanisms to victims of racial discrimination, as well as national remedies, and educational and preventive programmes implemented in various countries and regions;

(iii) Best practices to address racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(iv) Opportunities for technical cooperation;

(v) Academic studies and specialized documents.

IV. Modification required in the programme of work for 2002-2003

4. The narrative of section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 would be modified as follows:

Outputs

Paragraph 22.44

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

Under "(i) General Assembly: parliamentary documentation", add the output "Report on the implementation of the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2)".

After subparagraph (iv), add the following subparagraph:

"(v) Expert meetings. Five eminent experts (3); regional meetings (5)".

V. Indication of additional requirements

5. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the additional requirements for the implementation of the programme of work described above would amount to $1,178,700. The cost plan is as follows:

Additional requirements	*United States dollars*	
Section 22, Human rights		**Total**
Posts to be established for the Anti-Discrimination Unit[a]		
One P-5 Coordinator	141 300	
Two P-3 Research Officers	207 600	
One General Service staff	93 900	442 800
Other staff costs		18 200
Experts:		
Five eminent independent experts		
Travel and DSA for three meetings in Geneva (two in 2002 and one in 2003)	63 900	
Regional meetings (two in 2002 and three in 2003)		
Travel and DSA for five regional meetings	455 600	519 500
Travel of staff: travel and DSA to the five regional meetings and to New York		70 500
General operating expenses		
Maintenance of office and electronic data-processing equipment		22 600
Supplies and materials		1 200
Section 22, Human rights		**1 074 800**
Section 32, Staff assessment (to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment)		**103 900**
Total		**1 178 700**

[a] Estimated at a vacancy rate of 50 per cent for the Professional category and 65 per cent for the General Service category, in accordance with existing practice for new positions for the biennium 2002-2003.

6. No provision has been made under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 for activities related to the follow-up to the Conference. At this stage, it is not anticipated that these requirements could be absorbed from within the existing resources under section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for that biennium.

VI. Contingency fund

7. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the approved programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures proposed exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, such activities can be implemented only through the redeployment of resources available from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities.

8. Should it not prove possible to meet the cost required from the contingency fund, the activities and outputs to be carried out under section 22 foreseen for the biennium 2002-2003 would have to be further reprogrammed and modified beyond the proposals included in the present statement.

VII. Summary

9. **In summary, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.84/Rev.1, as orally revised, it would give rise to additional requirements for the biennium 2002-2003 under sections 22, Human rights, and 32, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for that biennium.**

10. **It is not possible at this stage to identify activities within section 22 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium.**

11. **Consequently, an additional provision would be required over and above the regular budget resources appropriated for the biennium 2002-2003. That provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require an increase in appropriations for the biennium 2002-2003 as follows:**

Section 22, Human rights	**$1 074 800**
Section 32, Staff assessment (to be offset by an equivalent amount under Income Section 1, Income from staff assessment)	**103 900**
Total	**$1 178 700**